

## National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) **Pennsylvania Opioid Summary**

Last Updated May 2019

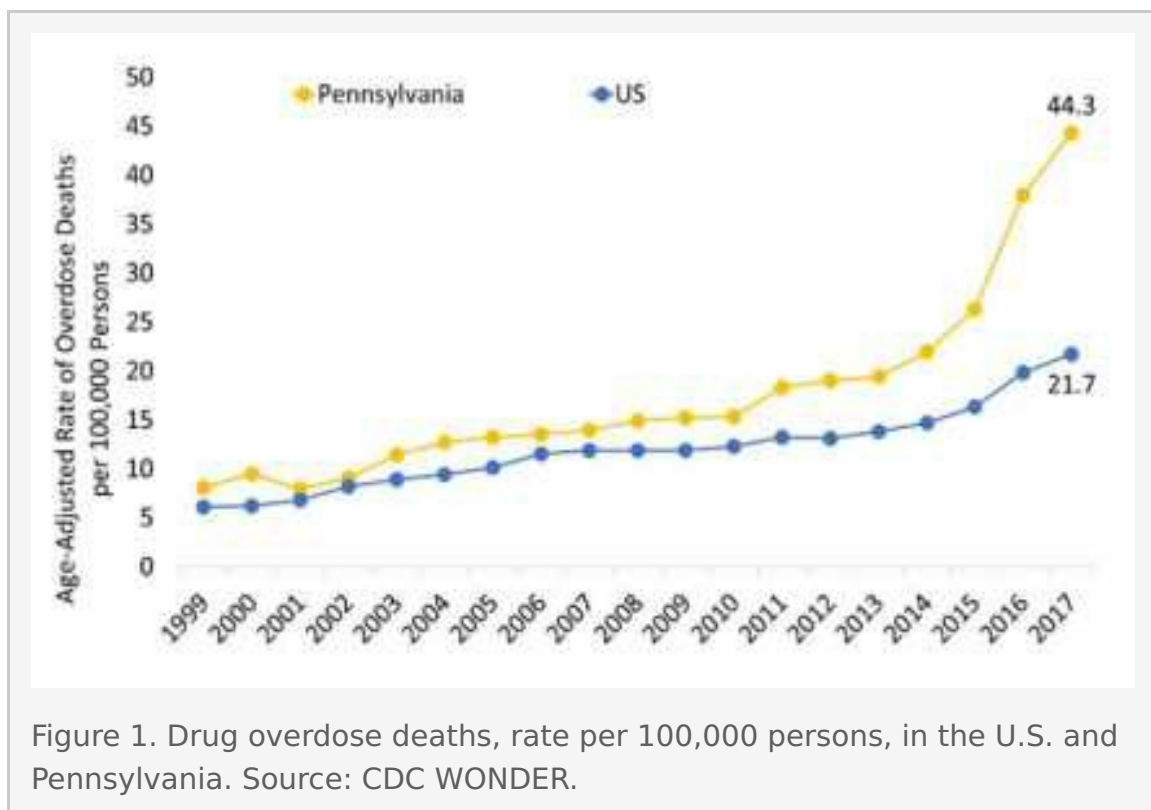
<https://www.drugabuse.gov>

# Pennsylvania Opioid Summary

## Drug Overdose Deaths

In 2017, there were more than 70,200 drug overdose deaths in the U.S.—an age-adjusted rate of 21.7 per 100,000 persons. Among these, 47,600 involved opioids. The sharpest increase occurred among deaths involving fentanyl and fentanyl analogs (other synthetic narcotics) with more than 28,400 overdose deaths in 2017.

The age-adjusted rate of drug overdose deaths increased significantly in Pennsylvania by 16.9 percent from 2016 (37.9 per 100,000) to 2017 (44.3 per 100,000). While the majority of drug overdose deaths in 2017 involved an opioid, overdose deaths involving opioids are not included for the state because the data reported did not meet inclusion criteria (see [Scholl L, et al. MMWR Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report 2019;67:1419-1427](#)).



## Opioid Pain Reliever Prescriptions

In 2017, Pennsylvania providers wrote 57.7 opioid prescriptions for every 100 persons (Figure 2) compared to the average U.S. rate of 58.7 prescriptions ([CDC](#)). This represents more than a 30 percent decrease from a peak of 83.3 opioid prescriptions per 100 persons in 2012.

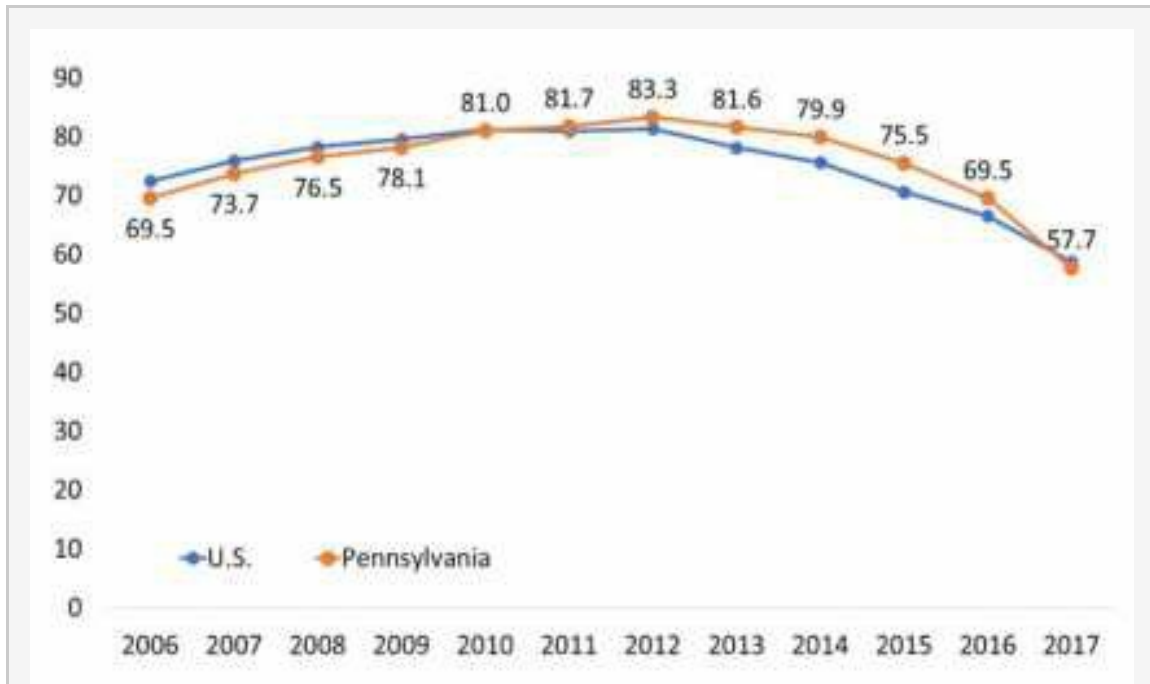
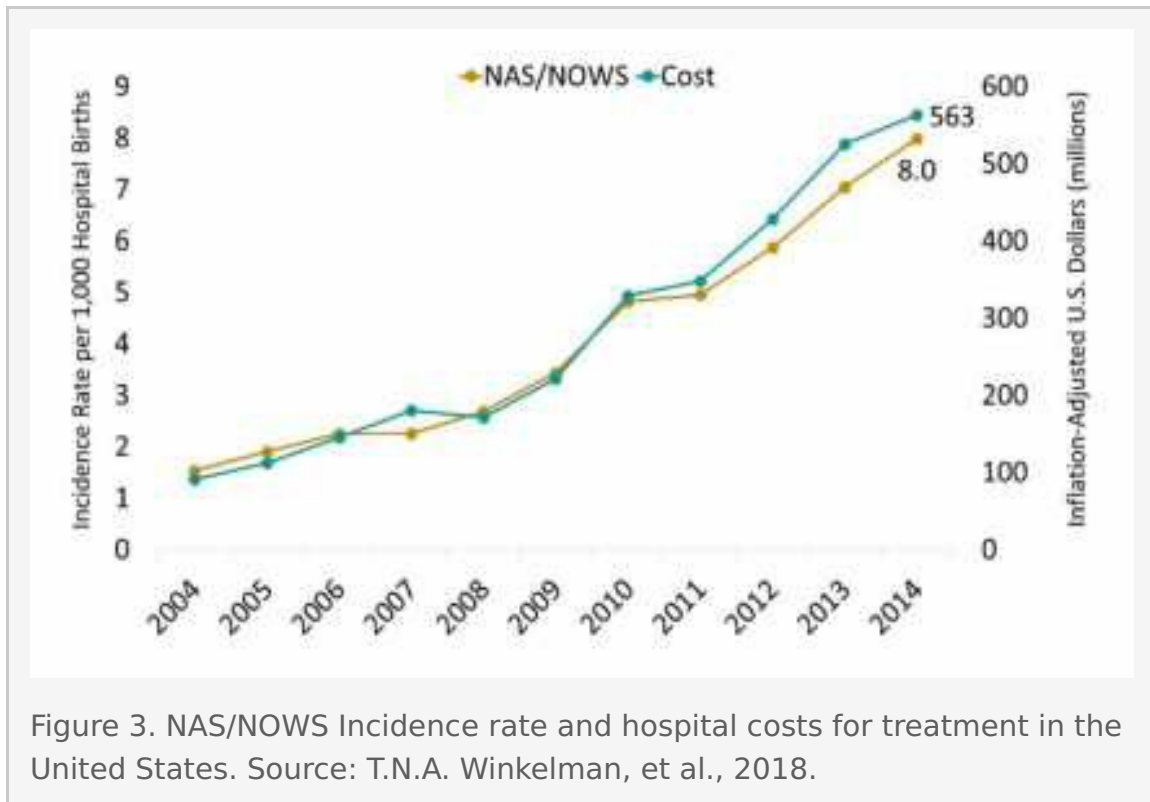


Figure 2. The U.S. and Pennsylvania opioid prescribing rate per 100 persons. Source: CDC and IQVIA Xponent 2006–2017.

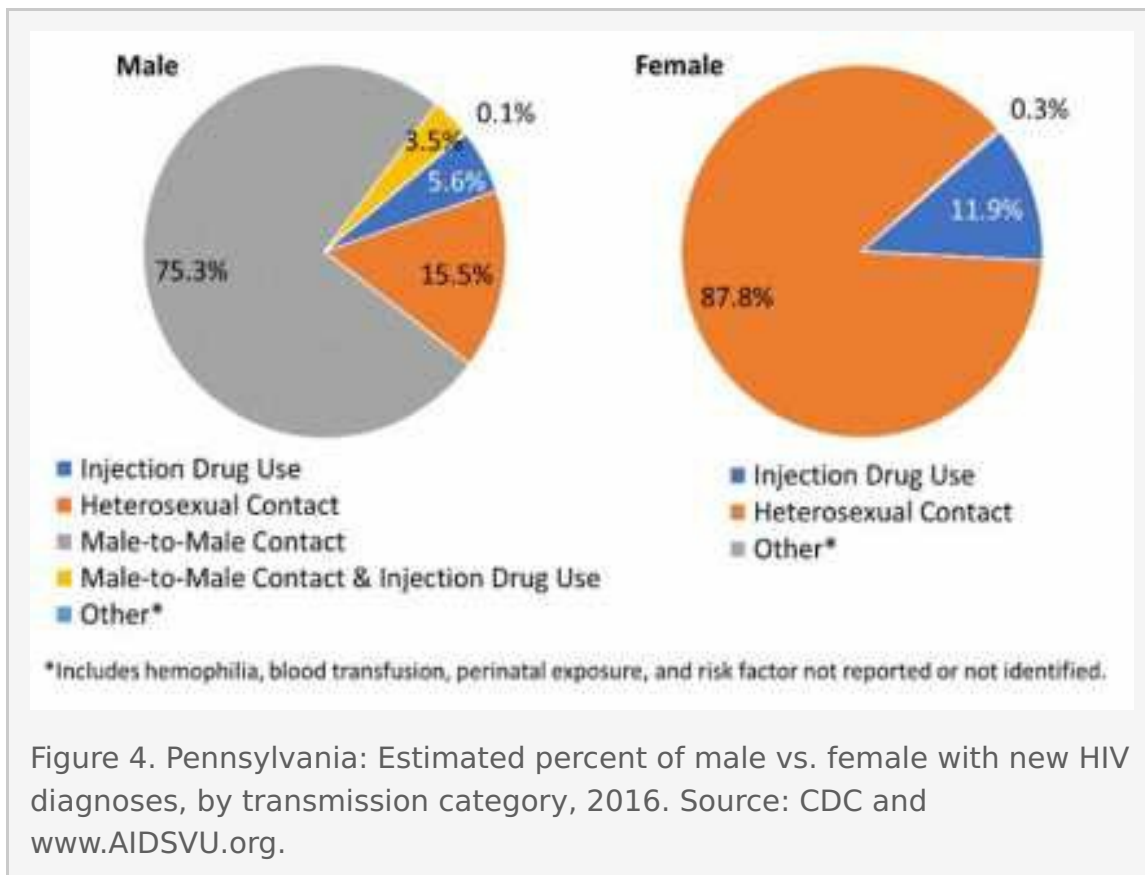
## Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS)

NAS or neonatal opioid withdrawal syndrome (NOWS) may occur when a pregnant woman uses drugs such as opioids during pregnancy. A recent national study revealed a fivefold increase in the incidence of NAS/NOWS between 2004 and 2014, from 1.5 cases per 1,000 hospital births to 8.0 cases per 1,000 hospital births. This is the equivalent of one baby born with symptoms of NAS/NOWS every 15 minutes in the United States. During the same period, hospital costs for NAS/NOWS births increased from \$91 million to \$563 million, after adjusting for inflation (Figure 3).

To date, there is no standard in NAS/NOWS provider and hospital coding practices ([CDC](#)). As a result, the trends and rates reported by states varies. The number of NAS/NOWS cases in Pennsylvania totaled 1,912 in 2017. The rate of NAS/NOWS rose from 1.2 cases per 1,000 hospital births in combined fiscal year's<sup>1</sup> 2000-2001 to 15.0 cases per 1,000 hospital births in combined fiscal year's 2016-2017 ([Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council](#)).



## HIV Prevalence and HIV Diagnoses Attributed to Injection Drug Use (IDU)



- U.S. Incidence:** In 2016, 9 percent (3,480) of the 39,589 new diagnoses of HIV in the United States were attributed to IDU. Among males, 6.3 percent (2,530) of new cases were transmitted via IDU or male-to-male contact and IDU. Among females, 2.3 percent (950) were transmitted via IDU ([CDC](http://www.CDC.gov)).
- U.S. Prevalence:** In 2016, 991,447 Americans were living with a diagnosed HIV infection—a rate of 306.6 cases per 100,000 persons. Among males, 19.9 percent (150,466) contracted HIV from IDU or male-to-male contact and IDU while 21 percent (50,154) of females were living with HIV attributed to IDU ([CDC](http://www.CDC.gov)).
- State Incidence:** Of the new HIV cases in 2016, 1,150 occurred in Pennsylvania. Among males, 9.1 percent of new HIV cases were attributed to IDU or male-to-male contact and IDU. Among females, 11.9 percent of new HIV cases were attributed to IDU (Figure 4) ([AIDSVU](http://www.AIDSVU.org)).
- State Prevalence:** In 2015, an estimated 34,233 persons were living with a diagnosed HIV infection in Pennsylvania—a rate of 314

cases per 100,000 persons. Of those, 25.5 percent of male cases were attributed to IDU or male-to-male contact and IDU. Among females, 26.7 percent were living with HIV attributed to IDU ([AIDSVu](#)).

## Hepatitis C (HCV) Prevalence and HCV Diagnoses Attributed to Injection Drug Use<sup>2</sup>

- **U.S. Incidence:** In 2016, there were an estimated 41,200 new cases of acute HCV<sup>3</sup> ([CDC](#)). Among case reports that contain information about IDU, 68.6 percent indicated use of injection drugs ([CDC](#)).
- **U.S. Prevalence:** An estimated 2.4 million Americans are living with HCV based on 2013-2016 annual averages ([CDC](#)).
- **State Incidence:** There were approximately 225 new cases of acute HCV (1.8 per 100,000 persons) reported in Pennsylvania in 2016 ([CDC](#)).
- **State Prevalence:** In Pennsylvania, there are an estimated 95,100 persons living with Hepatitis C (2013-2016 annual average), a rate of 950 cases per 100,000 persons ([HepVu](#)).

## The National Institute of Health Funds Center of Excellence in Pain Education



Pennsylvania is home to two of the eleven Centers of Excellence in Pain Education (CoEPes): the University of Pennsylvania and the University

of Pittsburgh. The CoEPEs act as hubs for the development, evaluation, and distribution of pain management curriculum resources for medical, dental, nursing, pharmacy and other schools to improve how health care professionals are taught about pain and its treatment.

## Additional Resources

- Pennsylvania Department of Health, [The Opioid Epidemic](#)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, [Opioid Overdose](#)

 NIH RePORTER

**FY2018 NIH-funded projects related to opioid use and use disorder in Pennsylvania: 25**

[VIEW RESULTS](#)

[Find treatment in Pennsylvania \(SAMHSA\)](#)

## Notes

1. Defined by the US Federal Government, starting on October 1, of a given year and ending on September 30, of the following year.
2. Not all states collect or report data on the incidence or prevalence of Hepatitis C or on how Hepatitis C is transmitted. When available, the data will be included.

3. Actual acute cases are estimated to be 13.9 times the number of reported cases in any year.